

TRAFFIC SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

On 19 November Chair of the traffic sub-committee, Noel Derwort, met with staff from Traffic Investigations staff at Roads ACT. During the meeting the topics covered included:

- Traffic issues in the streets around the school
- The implications of the increasing population density around the school
- Observations of contributing factors
- Opportunities for remediation
- Limitations around remediation
- Long term activities in the vicinity of the school.

Rather than go through the meeting in detail I will provide an overall thematic synopsis, which will provide the basis for direction for the 2016 activities for the traffic sub-committee.

One notable element was advice from the roads and infrastructure staff that some activity toward slightly increasing parking and making some modifications to several of the crossing was being processed and expected to be actioned shortly. Further details not were not provided as some information was not finalised for release.

A key theme from the Traffic Investigations staff reinforced the observations of those who have interacted with the sub-committee - namely that the behaviour of many of the people picking up and dropping of students was the biggest issue. These adverse behaviours are visible every day around the school with suggestions made that the significant international population may have been contributing, this can be easily countered with observation of similar behaviour at other schools in the region. Whilst any efforts to increase parking and traffic flow could potentially alleviate and reduce risks to the student population, any significant infrastructure efforts without commensurate activity to adjust/modify driver behaviour would be largely negatory. The role of AFP policing in this regard is largely transitory, punitive and of limited effect. Advice suggests other schools in the region have had more success with strategies involving parental and staff engagement - including management of drop-off zones to encourage, monitor and manage behaviours. Clearly this is a challenging and potentially divisive approach which would need to be carefully considered, planned and communicated if it were to be successful. As a minimum an ongoing and proactive communication strategy to encourage and remind those who support the student population.

Other more infrastructure based options including increasing the parking on surrounding streets and traffic flow were discussed. The more significant aspects which would limit major infrastructure development is the fiscal realities facing the Territory Government and the need to prioritise the expenditure across the Territory. The advice provided to me was that the majority of proposals to meet increasing parking alone would be prohibitive at this point in time. Other more 'creative' proposals were discussed although all involved modifying access the

the school grounds and therefore were well outside the scope and authority of the meeting, traffic department and traffic sub-committee.

The plan for the long term use of Manuka Oval and its position in the ACT plan was discussed. This offers both threats and opportunities for the school which will need to be considered as we move forward. Many of these issues are many years in the making and a considered approach is required.

Also discussed was the impact of increases to the local population through the significant development. Comments were made with respect to a relationship/engagement between TPS and the Aria group (representing the hotel and apartment complexes opposite TPS). I was advised to investigate this as opportunities for engagement and management and support may be possible. Of note, and as a minimum, engagement with the Aria group may provide an opportunity to rectify the issues caused by the contract gardeners who regularly park in the 15 minute car park adjacent to the kindergarten play ground entrance and inevitably during 'drop-off' times. Direct engagement with the gardeners has failed to produce any desired result (change of behaviour).

Whilst productive and informative the meeting did not produce clear and definitive opportunities to address the traffic issues in the short or medium term.

I intend to engage with the traffic sub-committee and others to determine strategies to address some of those aspects raised and be able to return to the P&C early in 2016.

Kind regards

Noel Derwort